MODULE 4
Fourth Grade

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Your child's class will use Arts & Letters as our English Language Arts curriculum. By reading and responding to excellent literature and informational texts, your student will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.

LET'S PLAY BALL

The fourth Module "Let's Play Ball" focuses on the question: "How can individuals contribute to a collective legacy?" You will read exciting stories about how baseball became "America's Pastime" and helped change our country's history. You will learn about famous players like Jackie Robinson who showed great courage while breaking barriers on and off the field.

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Literary Nonfiction Texts

- Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson, Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson
- We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Kadir Nelson

Audio Excerpts

- *"Jackie Robinson, 'Testing the Ice' for His Children," Morning Edition, hosted by Steve Inskeep, NPR*
- *"Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson, Pitching Pioneer," Morning Edition, hosted by Bob Edwards, NPR*

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- "Baseball," Great Minds®
- "Chapter 16: Rube Foster," Bob Kendrick, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

OUR CLASS WILL LOOK AT THIS ART:

- Harmonizing, Horace Pippin
- Icarus, Henri Matisse
- Joie de Vivre, Mark di Suvero

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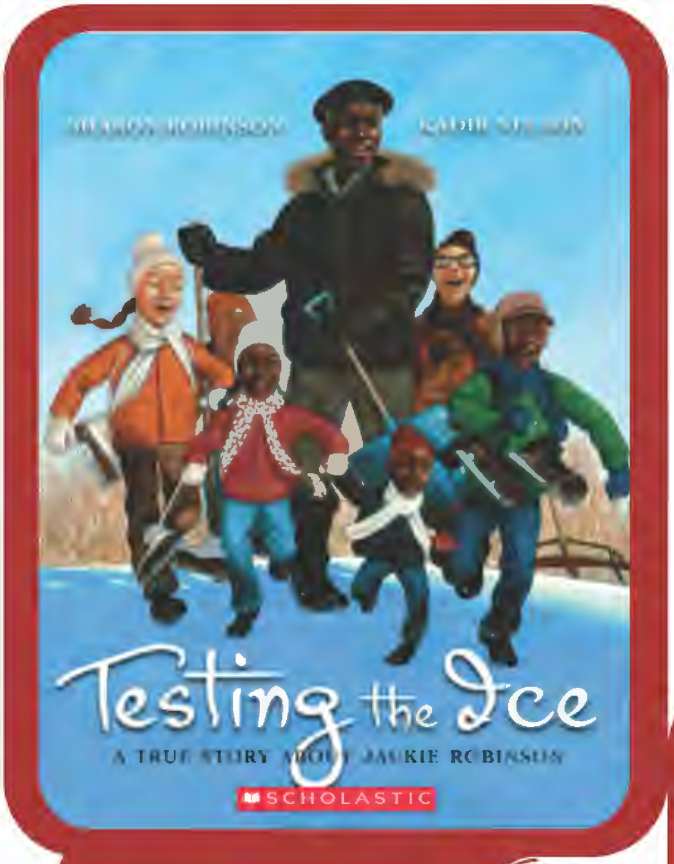

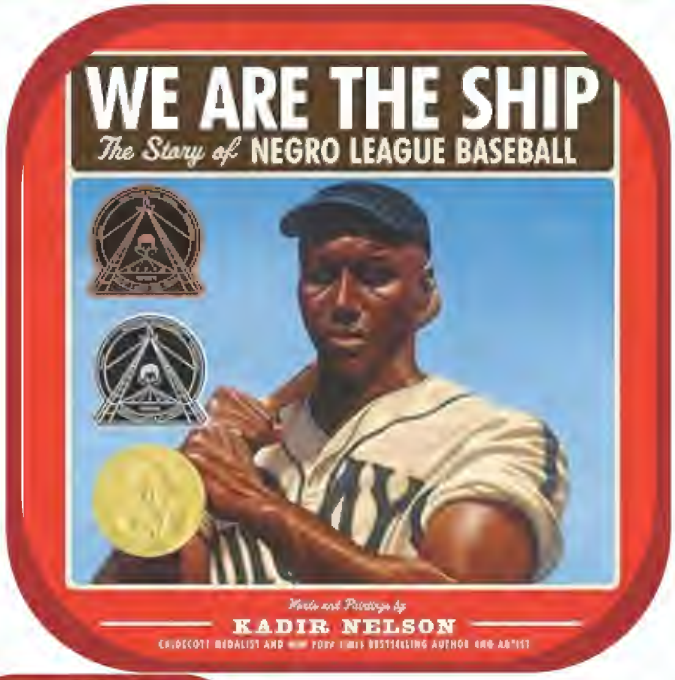

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How can a sport like baseball reflect and change the history of a country?
- What makes baseball "America's Pastime"?
- What challenges did players face in the Negro Leagues?
- How did Jackie Robinson's "noble experiment" change the game and the world?
- What character traits do "all-star" people have on and off the field?
- How do the illustrations in a book help us understand the emotions of the players?
- How can I use evidence from the text to explain why a player made a specific choice?
- What is the difference between a player's statistics and their actual impact on society?

VOCABULARY:

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word. They should also know how to use each word in a sentence:

- barrier
- collective
- dedication
- harmony
- integrate
- league
- legend
- passion
- pride
- professional
- research
- segregate

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PRACTICING AT HOME

WRITING, TALKING, AND READING

FOURTH GRADE MODULE 4: LET'S PLAY BALL

YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

At the end of this unit, your child will work to conduct a research project about an important individual from the Negro Leagues.

- **The project will include:**

*Students will make a decision about how they will convey their research findings using written and spoken components.

*Students will create a visual display connecting their written and spoken components.

*Students will write in a way that is appropriate for the audience.

*Students will share relevant facts and details about their topic.

*Students will use formal English when appropriate in research presentation.

WRITING

Throughout this module, students will focusing on:

- Narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays.
- Students integrate what they have learned about the Negro Leagues, informative writing, and speaking and presenting.
- They research an individual from the Negro Leagues and then plan and organize a presentation, sharing information through writing, speaking, and a visual display.

RESOURCES

Want to read some books about this unit at home?
Here are some suggestions:

- *"The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson"* by Bette Bao Lord
- *"Dad, Jackie, and Me"* by Myron Uhlberg
- *"Nelson Beats the Odds"* by Ronnie Sidney II
- *"Catching the Moon"* by Crystal Hubbard
- *"The Old Man and the Night"* by Tony Johnston
- *"Barbed Wire Baseball"* by Marissa Moss
- *"Queen of the Falls"* by Chris Van Allsburg

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